

June 22, 1856
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. President Pierce,

I would just like to say first of all that I think that you are doing a fine job as president of our great nation. I am presently a student in Philadelphia. The opportunity for all to be educated is an important part of our society and I hold this close to my heart. I am against slavery in all forms and in my life I work toward its end.

It is in this vein that I ask for a change in how things are in the United States. I believe that we should educate all people regardless of race. This is why I am petitioning you to change the law about educating black people. I really believe that slavery should be abolished, but that wish is for another day.

Educating all the races will sooner lead to an equality that can only strengthen our great nation. I know that you are a busy man, but I would be grateful if you could put your attention to this matter. I know that telling individual states what to do might be against your political beliefs, but I do believe that an example must be set for the humanity of our nation. An educated nation is a civilized one and a civilized nation is one of power.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anna Dickinson